

# What you don't know . . .

The FBI estimates there is a burglary nationally every 15 seconds. This amounts to millions of dollars of YOUR stolen property. Help safeguard your home by making a few worthwhile upgrades.

## Did you know . . . ?

- ✓ Most burglars enter the property from the rear of the home. It's more isolated, and they are less likely to bring attention to themselves.
- ✓ Many burglars make entry through hinged doors and operable windows. Sliding glass doors and plate glass windows can be targets.
- ✓ Loud dogs and nosy neighbors can be a significant deterrent.
- ✓ Many burglars will knock on the front door to assess if anyone is home. If you or a latchkey child are home, make your presence known.



- ✓ Most burglars do not want a confrontation and may not carry a weapon.

- ✓ Most burglars want easy-to-carry items, such as electronics, jewelry, cash.

- ✓ Alarms may not deter a burglar, but it does limit the time a burglar is in the home.

## Doors

Good quality doors and locks along with proper installation can mean the difference between an attempted burglary and a successful burglary.

- ✓ Doors should be solid material – wood, steel or fiberglass.

- ✓ If there is decorative glass in the door or windows adjacent to the door, be sure it does not allow access to a lock if the window is broken OR have other safety measures in place – glass film, polycarbonate material or double cylinder locks (where code allows).

- ✓ Deadbolt locks should have at least a 1" throw (the bolt) to fit solidly into the framing.

- ✓ The strike plate (the brass plate at the door frame) should have 4 screws, preferably each being 4" long, to ensure it is firmly attached to the trim and framing.

Each of these components plays an important role. When used together properly, it could prevent a burglary.



## Windows

Windows should have double or triple pane glass to minimize easy breakage.

- ✓ If possible, choose windows with 2 locking devices to help delay entry. Larger windows often have 2 crescent locks or other locking mechanism on the windows.

- ✓ Secondary lock-offs can be used to delay or discourage entry. Some are built into the windows while others are after-market items.

## Landscaping

Keeping trees and shrubs properly trimmed will lessen hiding places for a burglar.

- ✓ A deciduous tree should have its lowest limb at 6' from the ground.
- ✓ Shrubs should be maintained at a height of between 2' - 3'.

These recommendations allow a person to be more easily seen due to better visual access.

- ✓ Thorny plants can be utilized in vulnerable locations. Some recommendations are rose, pyracantha, barberry and holly.





## Vacations and Holidays

Burglaries can occur while you are out of town. To help minimize your chances take the following into consideration:

- ✓ Decide whether to stop the mail or newspaper. Ask a trusted neighbor to gather them for you. Cancelling service can signal your absence.
- ✓ Have a neighbor park in your driveway or in front of your home.
- ✓ Timers on lights at night tuned to your normal schedule can show the appearance of your typical routine.
- ✓ Free papers and flyers may still be left at residence.

## Alarms

Audible alarms notify the burglar.

Monitored alarms notify the police. Very often an alarm system will limit the time a burglar is in a home, limiting the amount of property stolen.

## Safes

A safe can be very useful to safeguard your items. Research the type of safe you need. A burglar safe keeps someone from breaking in, but often does not keep an item from charring in a fire. A fire safe can keep documents from burning, but may be easily opened.

## Home Inventory

A home inventory of valuables can be extremely important in retrieving your property and closing a case.

- ✓ Make a list of property to include the make, model and serial number.
- ✓ Include portable devices and kids' game consoles and items as well.
- ✓ Take pictures of jewelry while wearing it to show scale. Keep any appraisals with the inventory list.
- ✓ Keep the list in a secure location.

**Schedule your home security survey with your Community Services Officer.**

## Important Numbers

District Community Service Officers

1st District .....	240-773-6070
2nd District .....	240-773-6700
3rd District .....	240-773-6800
4th District .....	240-773-5500
5th District .....	240-773-6200
6th District .....	240-773-5700
Central Auto Theft .....	240-773-6370
Police Emergency .....	911
Non-Emergency .....	301-279-8000



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
100 Edison Park Drive  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police)



Montgomery County, Maryland  
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

# Home Security

*Safety Tips To  
Keep Your Home  
and Valuables Safe*

